

MR. PUNDERFORD'S ARGUMENT

THAT THE readers of The Times-Farmer may have accurate first-hand information of the attitude of the Connecticut company with respect to its desire to kill off the jitneys, its wish to have certain burdens taken off and its desire to charge more fares, upon this page is printed the views of J. H. Punderford, general manager of the company, which are very clearly stated. This is not always the case with the views advanced in behalf of the company. This time the trolley monopoly does not lose anything by the failure of its advocate to make himself understood.

Mr. Punderford speaks, though he may not know it, as two kinds of an expert. He deals with the mechanical side of his company, that area which has strictly to do with the operation of the road, its management as a physical property. In this field he commands attention. What he says may be received at par, or even as understatement of what has been done in the way of effecting economies.

He also attempts to deal with the trolley problem as it concerns relations between the owners of the road and the public, those questions which are social and legislative in their nature. In this field his views are for the most part not entitled to serious consideration.

What Mr. Punderford says about the physical advantages of unification, about shop economies, about reclamation of rails, about safety cars is interesting, and proves that the engineers, the producing men in charge of the company, have been doing their best to offset the difficulties created partly by the times, and partly by an unfortunate, if not absolutely criminal, financial management of other days.

From the engineering standpoint the present management of the Connecticut company may be regarded as admirable. The engineers are making such garment from little cloth.

When Mr. Punderford deals with such questions as taxation he is singularly unfortunate. His method of approach is historic with his company. In the beginning, when it was first advanced by representatives of his company, the tax argument he uses was probably the insincere formula of some lobbyist with a legal training. The argument has now been used so often that it is a tradition. The Connecticut Company has bred up a school of tax experts of its own, who adhere to its ideas about trolley taxation, because they have never heard of any other. Mr. Punderford is relieved of any implication of personal insincerity.

In Connecticut, taxation is usually laid upon values.

The Connecticut Company has two sorts of property upon which it pays taxes.

Property to which it holds the title, and property which it leases, agreeing to pay the tax as part of the rental.

In its last published report to the Public Utilities Commission the Connecticut Company reported its own property as worth \$53,137,000. The Connecticut Railway & Lighting Company, owner of the leased property, reported a value of \$32,372,000. The total value of the property upon which the Connecticut Company should pay taxes is \$85,409,000, and the company pays, figures of Mr. Punderford, "about" \$450,000, or a little more than five mills on the dollar. The current rate in Bridgeport, local property, is about 21 mills on the dollar, and this is the rate paid by automobile owners in Bridgeport.

Dollar for dollar, automobiles are taxed at a higher rate throughout Connecticut than trolley cars are.

In addition to paying their taxes, like other property, automobiles are subject to a charge, virtually, as Mr. Punderford suggests, for the "use of the road."

In the case of a Ford car, worth say \$500, this charge is \$41 which is more than 2 per cent per annum on the value of the property new. It is much more on the value of the car old.

A similar charge of 2 per cent on the value of the property of the trolley monopoly would provide the state with a revenue of \$1,700,180, which is almost \$700,000 more than the Connecticut company pays, in taxes, for its contribution to pavements and its contribution to bridges.

The contention that has between trolleys and jitneys the Connecticut Company is unfairly taxed is utterly ridiculous. The contrary is the case.

Charges for bridges and pavements were originally laid in lieu of taxes. If these charges were rebated and the company were taxed something like a fair rate, let us say, one and one-half per cent, it would pay more than at present, and be paying much less than the mass of other property in the state.

Moreover, the Connecticut Company in mending its road beds, in keeping up its right of way is fairly charged with certain costs in pavement and bridges.

Nor under this theory, is anything charged to the Connecticut Company because it has a monopoly of a certain large and important method of doing business.

Private management of Connecticut street railways is utterly broken down. The remedy of public ownership is the only remedy.

CURBING BOLSHEVISM

UNDERLYING THE modern labor movement everywhere in the world, from the United States to China, is the propaganda of socialism, which gets itself called Bolshevism wherever a minority does in fact control the majority by force, or actively attempts to do so.

Nevertheless the great body of socialist supporters are not conscious of socialist motives. They have no purpose to reform society, to change the order of doing things, or any program of that sort. They want some immediate good or convenience, and strike for that and for that alone.

The thing most provocative of strikes and class revolution is idleness. Long ago, while the war was yet in progress, The Times-Farmer repeatedly said that the course of affairs after the war must depend largely upon the intelligence exhibited by governments in the organization of work.

A depressed industry, men out of employment, a market of high prices and descending wages, it was said, would be provocative of anarchy and of revolution.

Governments have not adequately considered means of organizing work and society is suffering accordingly. Nothing was different, in its narrower aspects, than after other wars.

War always stimulated industry. The end of war was always followed by a period of disorganization and industrial collapse. People always endured the after consequences of war, but not without considerable disturbances, even when lack of work was thought to be unavoidable, a consequence of forces entirely outside human control.

Prior to this war the world had made considerable inquiries into the nature of industry. The working class leaders had built up an economics of a most penetrating sort. Thousands of men in every country had come to believe that work in its nature is without limit, which carries with it the belief that idleness and no work is merely inferior organization.

The war came and there was proof of the illimitable nature of work. There was not only as much as could be done,

but more. When the peoples were threatened with death there was no difficulty in keeping busy.

Now the simple philosophy underlying the strike disturbances in Europe and the lesser disturbances in our own country is this, that if men can keep very busy while other men are shooting at them, that they ought to be intelligent enough to keep very busy when nobody is shooting at them.

Work, under this theory, is a mere matter of organization. Raw materials are without limit. Human desires are without limit. The only limited factor is the power of human hands. It is as easy to organize industry to build roads, clear forests and drain swamps, and easier, than it is to organize to build cannon and war ships.

Plenty of work and everybody working means a high standard of living. Under such conditions the pile of things produced will be great.

But after the war governments fall into a palsy as it seems. The power to organize work largely disappears. Men begin to quarrel about wages and prices, without much considering that wages and prices are relative, and that the only wealth is the great heaps of usable things produced. These heaps of usable things will be smaller according as more or fewer persons work to produce them. Access to these usable things is denied unless men can work, and so an inferior organization of industry brings in its train great evils, which threaten social stability everywhere.

One month of co-ordinated counsel between the government and the business men of America could produce a degree of industrial organization sufficient to solve all problems, by preventing idleness and the enormous losses flowing from idleness.

To curb Bolshevism work must be plentiful, and the heaps of things produced must be vast, and there must be the greatest attainable equity in the distribution of those commodities among those who assist in producing them.

RECOGNITION FOR TAMMANY

AMONG THE Fairfield county representatives who have been recognized by Speaker Walsh in his committee appointments is Charles B. Tammany, one of the veterans of the house. Mr. Tammany is elected from Easton. He is 72 years old, but thoroughly posted on Connecticut legislation. In spite of residence in one of the smaller towns of the county Representative Tammany came within one vote of being chosen auditor in the county convention of his party, and would have been elected had it not been for the Bridgeport vote, friendly to John T. King. Mr. Tammany has been named to the committee on cities and boroughs, which this year has before it a number of bills exceeded only by the number sent to the committee on judiciary. Of this recognition the friends and fellow townsmen of Mr. Tammany are very proud. Mr. Tammany is familiar with the situation in Bridgeport, which will be a source of congratulation to those who are interested in Bridgeport legislation before the committee on cities and boroughs.

GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA

STANWOOD MENKEN, former president of the National Security League, says that American government is functioning at its worst. He is probably wrong about this. The American government has been functioning in a quite admirable manner, as the victory over Germany shows. It appears to be getting along well with a League of Nations project, which will represent quite a forward step, when it is taken.

But Mr. Menken's present complaint relates to the manner in which Congress seems to take its orders from the executive branch of the government. This too has been well done. When war comes, the things to be done are seen most clearly by those who must do them. It happens, and quite necessarily, that war bills usually originate in the several executive departments that manage the war. They tell congress what is wanted, congress investigates and accepts so much of the proffered advice as seems good. This is best.

Mr. Menken complains that the political parties do not represent any particular program. They do not say what they will do, and nobody can tell what will be done, just because this or that party is elected.

This fault is inherent in the American system. It contains no means by which the people may directly express themselves at the ballot box to any particular question. A president may be chosen of one party, and the senate or house of representatives of another party, so there will be no decision at all, about anything, except the mere choice of legislators or executives.

But in a rude way the party system does carry instructions to do things. When a reform has been long agitated, it finally gets into party platforms, and usually into all party platforms. Its growing appearance in these platforms is a token that the thing is about to be done, and the thing will finally get itself done without much regard to party lines.

The defect in the American government by which it is prevented from making particular decisions by popular ballot is, under the cause of the universal demand for a referendum, under which any question may be submitted for decision.

Most of the other defects of which Mr. Menken complains are common to other governments just now. New economic concepts clamor at the door. The quarrel grows between an earlier and a later set of principles, and no government is free from these new problems which all governments are trying to solve.

In one matter Mr. Menken is entirely correct. The great political parties are made up of groups of men of very different economic ideals. They move together by habit and to obtain offices and power, with very little consciousness of the wide separations in belief that exist among them. Republicans of New England and Democrats of the South are almost twins in economic ideals. The Democrats of New England are a class of ultra conservatives with no counterpart anywhere in this country. The Democrats of the West are more radical, and the Republicans of a large part of the West five or six times as radical, as the New England democracy.

Social reforms cannot as Mr. Menken seems to suppose, originate at the bottom. They are precisely like other machines, the invention of a few minds. They grow precisely as the telephone does, through the acceptance of the novelty, by the masses.

ALIEN AGITATORS

AMERICA IS A country of free speech and free assembly. It is true that during the war these rights have been to some extent suspended, and are still so, but normal conditions must soon be restored.

Rights of free speech do not, however, convey to alien agitators the right to come to America to foment labor disputes, or to settle any other American question whatever.

The arrest and deportation of the assorted lot of Finns, Swedes and Russians, connected with the I. W. W. of Seattle, is

logical and proper. The strike is a species of public action permitted by law, and yet, though exercised as a private right, is a power of the greatest and most important. Power to lead a strike should be entirely in the hands of American citizens, men long enough in the country to vote, and interested in the country to desire to vote.

To labor agitations conducted by aliens the United States will give a short shrift. America is for Americans, and the American labor movement must be managed and led by American citizens.

THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

THE VOTE in the senate, by which the equal suffrage fell, is trying to the minds of those who have been actively agitating the cause of equal ballot. In the great arena of time it is of little consequence. When it is remembered that for uncounted centuries women had no right of franchise, the particular moment in which all of them will have it is not so important, because so near.

Who would have supposed ten years ago that the Susan B. Anthony amendment could come up in the most conservative legislative body in the world and receive a vote of two-thirds of its members, less one?

A few senators, men entirely out of touch with the times, and uninfluenced by any consciousness of the inevitable, delayed for a few months the accomplishment of an act of justice. Among these senators, so reactionary and so impossible, are the Connecticut senators, Brandegee and McLean, with whom the people of Connecticut will deal when they present themselves again.

Folly has no peculiar habitat. Opposed to folly of reaction such as the Connecticut senators exhibited was the folly of progress over done exhibited by the women who burned the president in effigy, because he had not induced the senate to vote for their measure. Burning in effigy the man who more than any other has advanced the cause of suffrage in the United States is neither intelligent nor grateful. It is neither good advertising, nor good judgment.

THOMAS D. CORBETT

IN THE DEATH of Thomas D. Corbett Newtown loses the chief celebrant of her scenic beauties and her industrial possibilities. The Times-Farmer is deprived of a correspondent who, whatever his errors of judgment or prejudice, loved the town in which he lived, the work he did and the chronicles he wrote.

In a larger community Mr. Corbett might have made a larger figure, but he might not have done a work as useful. For thirty-five years he taught school in Newtown with faithfulness, intelligence and generosity. He did not stint the measure of his effort. The generations of youth he trained are a testimonial to his usefulness.

THE LAWS FOR CONNECTICUT

AN ALIEN seeking citizenship was asked, "Who makes the laws for Bridgeport?" He replied, "The legislature." He was right.

In Connecticut, and indeed throughout the United States, the municipality is the creature of the legislature; it has no life without the legislative charter, and no law without legislative permission. The legislature of Connecticut may reduce every city in Connecticut to any position it sees fit; may add one community to another; may divide, or take away. Most of the electoral divisions of the state represent a legislative will to maintain an unfair and unrepresentative system, sometimes called the rotten borough system.

Anti-Saloon League Bone Dry Law Offered To New York State Legislature

Permits Sale of Fermented Wine for Sacramental Purposes, Provides for Medicinal Use—Licenses of Druggist, or Doctor Forfeited Who Sells or Prescribes Unlawfully—Statute Type of Bill to Be Introduced in 48 States.

Albany, Feb. 11.—The Anti-Saloon League's prohibition law enforcement bill was introduced in the Legislature last night by Senator George F. Thompson of Niagara and Assemblyman Walter S. McNab of Schenectady, the dry leaders of the respective houses. It is said to represent the type of law the league will introduce in each of the 48.

The measure contains all the provisions of the present excise law which has been tested in the courts, and is no stronger than the law which has been enforced in dry territory in New York for twenty years. William H. Anderson of the Anti-Saloon League said in a statement explaining it.

The main provisions of the bill to enforce prohibition arrange for the creation of officers to administer it; provide who may and who may not possess and sell liquor, and may how the prevention of its possession and sale shall be enforced. There is one paragraph acknowledging every man's house to be his castle, the bill setting forth at subdivision 5 of Section 17 that:

"The keeping of liquor in any building not used exclusively for a dwelling, in which the possession of liquor is not allowed under the provision of this chapter, shall be prima facie evidence that the same is kept in violation hereof. But no warrant shall be issued to search a private dwelling occupied as such unless some part of it is used as a store or shop, hotel or boarding house, or for any other purpose than a private residence, or unless such residence is a place of public resort."

Officers to Be Named

As to officers and administration the bill provides for the creation of a State Commissioner of Public Welfare, to be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate, and who shall hold office for five years. He is to receive a salary of \$7,000 a year and necessary expenses. He is to have an office at Albany and may appoint a First and Second Deputy Commissioner at \$5,000 and \$4,000 a year, respectively. All applications for permits to have or sell liquor must be approved by him.

The Commissioner has the appointment of forty special agents to help him in his work, and they are to be considered his confidential assistants. Their salaries will not be princely. For his first year an agent is to receive only \$1,000, for the second year \$1,500 and for the third and following years \$1,800. The agents may be paid their expenses on assignments or investigations outside their own home-cities or towns, but get no expenses when working where they live.

Permits to have and sell liquor, but regardless of any alcoholic percentage, concerning which the bill is silent all through, may be issued to:

Manufacturers of ethyl alcohol.

Manufacturers of fermented wine for medicinal or sacramental use.

Wholesale and retail druggists.

Manufacturers of non-drinkable alcoholic toilet, medicinal, antiseptic, culinary or other non-beverage preparations.

Manufacturers of drinkable alcoholic compounds, whether proprietary or patented.

In addition to the classes set forth special permits may be issued to:

Hospital, museum, laboratory, public, educational or other similar public institution, or manufacturing establishment using alcohol in its process of manufacture.

Clergymen, for sacramental purposes.

Physicians engaged in actual active practice.

Common carriers.

But, coming to the question of enforcement, the bill provides that the manufacturer and the druggist may sell liquor only to those who have special permits enabling them to buy it, with the exception that physicians may prescribe it and the druggist may prescribe it to an individual, but upon filling it must mark the prescription cancelled and file it in a docket kept for that purpose. If the druggist fails in the letter of honesty in the matter of these prescriptions he loses his license. If the physician prescribes for a person not in need of liquor as a medicine he, upon conviction, suffers, in addition to a fine, the

cancellation of his license to practice his profession.

Common carriers are required to receive and deliver alcoholic fluids only between persons having proper permits. The carrier must label each alcoholic package for what it is, and for the offense of receiving or delivering wrongly he is subject not only to a fine and the loss of his special license, but the vehicle (from Pullman car to delivery) in which the liquor is improperly carried may be seized and sold and its proceeds paid over to the state.

The tenacity of the special agent's obvious salary is offset for him—if he is of the proper crusading caliber—in the final provisions of the bill relating to search, seizure and forfeiture. He may search any vehicle, on land or water, without the formality of a warrant, and may seize all alcohol found aboard which is not protected by a permit. He may appear before any magistrate, justice of the peace, municipal judge, county judge or supreme court justice, ask for a search warrant against any building not exclusively a dwelling and call upon all police, sheriffs, constables and district attorneys to help him serve it and search the premises under pain of removal from their offices. And in case of any person known or alleged to be intoxicated he may call upon the court to summon the drunkard and the person suspected of having given him drink, and should either of them, on their appearance, refuse to testify against themselves or each other they may be committed for contempt of court.

Constitutional Rights

The constitutional rights of the drinking citizen appear to loom small to the framers of the enforcement bill. Having provided that he must testify against himself or go to jail, they provide that he may not be made to suffer any forfeiture or penalty on account of his testimony and that it shall not be receivable against him in any other criminal proceeding.

The bill declares that any building where alcohol is illicitly sold is a nuisance and provides for its abatement by injunction with a fine, and a disability against it, providing that if it is a drug store, it may not be reopened for two years.

One thousand dollars is the penalty suggested for violating the terms of an injunction order and from this sum down to \$50, all through the bill, penalties bristle on every page.

Final provisions require that no alcohol shall be featured or displayed in advertising anywhere in the state; that any one injured by an intoxicated person may sue the person who gave the rum, brandy, liquor, and that any one who permits cider to ferment must, within one month, render it not drinkable by adding mother of vinegar to it.

The bill ends with provisions that all conflicting laws are hereby deemed suspended and that this act take effect on July 1, 1919.

MARTIAL LAW NOT NECESSARY

Butte, Mont., Feb. 11.—With a declaration by Major A. M. Jones, commander of the Federal troops stationed in Butte, that there was no necessity for declaring martial law in connection with the strike of members of the Butte Metal Miners' union "Independent" and the Metal Mine Workers' Industrial Union, No. 530, I. W. W. interest centered today in the attitude of other union labor organizations relative to the calling of a general strike.

The walkout of miners in protest of the recently announced wage reduction of \$1 a day to demand the abolition of the "rusting-card" system of employment has ended up ore production almost completely.

The street railway employees, while informing the manager of the company that they are not on strike, decided not to work because of fear of violence.

U. S. BOYS IN RUSSIAN WILD

So Cold Water Freezes in Machine Gun's Cooler.

With American Forces in Northern Russia, Dec. 26, via London, Jan. 15. (Correspondence Associated Press).

One night spent at field headquarters of the American command holding the Ennsa river front near Kadish (since abandoned) revealed the difficulties which the troops faced in this desolate region in an arctic winter.

Field headquarters were in a tiny, rough-hewn log cabin, thatched with a roof of spruce boughs and heated by a home-made stove. Outside in the forest, the troops, sheltered only by lean-tos of boughs, shivered around camp fires in the snow. Inside the hut, the boys, in a rough table and a field telephone.

The cold wind whistled through the chinks in the logs and came up through cracks in the door. The officers "turned in" early, wrapped in the blankets and overcoats they could get.

Down along the banks of the ice-filled Ennsa river, 100 yards from the Bolshevik lines, American outpost patrols stamped their boots on the frozen swamp ground in the brush unable to build fires for fear of snipers.

"Das-baz-baz," went the field telephone in headquarters hut, and the orderly called the machine gun officer. From the conversation it appeared that the water in the cooling chambers of the "emma-gees" (the soldiers' pet name for machine guns) in the front line had frozen and that the record would not work.

"Because there was no alcohol or glycerine handy, rum had been mixed as an anti-freezing fluid with the water in the cooling chambers. The officer said he would send down some new glycerine."

He went out to find that every gun in the place was in the same fix. A long row of them was brought inside the hut and stacked near the stove to thaw out.

"Here," ordered the machine gun officer, "sleep with the gun. Wrap them up in the same blankets with yourselves."